

**CLAIMS**

- 1 1. In an optical module having a faceplate connected to a board and an adapter connected to  
2 the faceplate, the adapter having a fiber optic cable assembly connected thereto within the  
3 optical module, an apparatus for activating a release tab of the fiber optic cable assembly  
4 to disconnect the fiber optic cable assembly from the adapter, the apparatus comprising  
5 an actuator rotatably connected to the board for rotational movement about a pivot point,  
6 the actuator being disposed on the board adjacent to the release tab of the fiber optic  
7 cable assembly such that the rotational movement of the actuator urges the release tab  
8 into an unlatched position and enables the fiber optic cable assembly to be disconnected  
9 from the adapter.
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a fiber optic cable spool having the actuator  
2 formed at a periphery thereof, the fiber optic cable spool being connected to the board of  
3 the optical module such that the actuator is adjacent the release tab of the fiber optic cable  
4 assembly.
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the actuator has a planar front surface that contacts the  
2 release tab of the fiber optic cable assembly when the actuator is rotated about the pivot  
3 point.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the pivot point is a post.
- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the actuator includes a hook portion that rotatably  
2 connects to the post.

- 1 6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the actuator has a planar back surface against which a  
2 user can apply a force to rotate the actuator about the pivot point.
- 1 7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rotational movement for urging the actuator against  
2 the release tab is counterclockwise.
- 1 8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the fiber optic cable assembly is an LC-type assembly.
- 1 9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the actuator simultaneously engages a plurality of  
2 release tabs and simultaneously urges each release tab into an unlatched position when  
3 the actuator is rotated about the pivot point.
- 1 10. In an optical module having a faceplate connected to a board and an adapter connected to  
2 the faceplate, the adapter having a fiber optic cable assembly connected thereto within the  
3 optical module, an apparatus for activating a release tab of the fiber optic cable assembly  
4 to disconnect the fiber optic cable assembly from the adapter, the apparatus comprising:  
5 means disposed adjacent to the release tab of the fiber optic cable assembly for  
6 urging the release tab; and  
7 means for rotatably connecting the urging means to the board of the optical  
8 module to enable rotational movement of the urging means about a pivot point, the  
9 rotational movement of the urging means enabling the fiber optic cable assembly to be  
10 disconnected from the adapter by urging the release tab of the fiber optic cable assembly  
11 into an unlatched position.
- 1 11. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising means for guiding fiber optic cable having  
2 the urging means formed thereon, the guiding means being mounted on the board of the

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3           optical module such that the urging means is disposed adjacent the release tab of the fiber  
4           optic cable assembly.

1   12.    The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the urging means simultaneously engages a plurality  
2           of release tabs and simultaneously urges each release tab into an unlatched position when  
3           the urging means is rotated into the release tabs.

1   13.    An optical module comprising:  
2           a board;  
3           a faceplate connected to one end of the board, the faceplate being generally  
4           perpendicular to the board;  
5           an adapter connected to the faceplate;  
6           a fiber optic cable assembly including a fiber optic cable and a release tab that  
7           connects the fiber optic cable to the adapter; and  
8           an actuator rotatably connected to the board for rotational movement about a pivot  
9           point, the actuator being disposed adjacent to the release tab of the fiber optic cable  
10          assembly such that the rotational movement of the actuator urges the release tab into an  
11          unlatched position and enables the fiber optic cable assembly to be disconnected from the  
12          adapter of the optical module.

1   14.    The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a fiber optic cable spool mounted to the  
2           board, the fiber optic spool having the actuator formed at a periphery thereof.

1   15.    The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the pivot point is a post.

- 1 16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the actuator includes a hook portion that rotatably  
2 connects to the post.
- 1 17. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the rotational movement of the actuator that urges the  
2 release tabs is counterclockwise.
- 1 18. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the fiber optic cable assembly is an LC-type  
2 assembly.
- 1 19. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a second fiber optic cable assembly  
2 including a second fiber optic cable and a second release tab that connects the second  
3 fiber optic cable to the adapter, and wherein the actuator simultaneously engages each  
4 release tab and simultaneously urges each release tab into an unlatched position when the  
5 actuator is rotated.